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IAC-D-100/47  
12 September 1957

Validity Study of NIE 63.3/1-55:

Probable Developments in Laos to July 1956,  
published 20 December 1955

Although NIE 63.3/1-55 correctly estimated that neither side was likely to initiate large-scale hostilities, it incorrectly predicted a gradual buildup in the scale and intensity of hostilities in northern Laos through the first half of 1955. Moreover it estimated that there was little likelihood of an effective cease-fire. In these latter respects it failed to foresee the investiture of Souvanna Phouma in the spring of 1956 and his soft line toward the Pathet Lao which resulted in a cease-fire in August and subsequent emphasis on political negotiations.

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